

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected claims 1-9 and 11-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Stevens in view of Reid. The Examiner rejected claims 10 and 20-31 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rudell in view of Reid. The claims have been amended to recite an indicator that provides an indication of a timer which counts a time interval before activation of a motor. None of the references disclose the limitation of indicating a countdown to activation of a motor in a jumping element apparatus.

As admitted by the Examiner, Rudell does not disclose a timer and an indicator. Although Reid discloses a timer, this timer is associated with the activation period of the machine, not the time before the activation of the machine. Likewise Stevens discloses a timer that controls the time that the machine is operating. Taken together, the references would create a jumping apparatus with an indicator that indicates the activation time of the motor, not the time before activation of the motor as recited in the claims. Consequently, the combination of these references cannot render obvious the recited claims.

Additionally the references would not teach or suggest the recited claims. Reid actually teaches away from indicating a countdown to in the activation of the motor. Although Reid discusses a delay between when the start button is pressed and activation of the motor, column 5, lines 66-7 and columns 6, lines 1-3, suggests providing an illuminated footpad to show where the user should stand upon activation of the system. Although Reid recognizes the problem of not knowing the exact time of machine activation, the proposed solution is to provide a footpad. This is to be distinguished from the recited claims which allow a user to know the exact activation time of the motor. This allows the user to be truly


prepared for movement of the jumping element. For all the above reasons, the Applicant submits that the cited references do not render obvious the recited claims.

In view of the above it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections is requested. Allowance of claims 1-4, 6-14, and 16-26 at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

IRELL & MANELLA LLP

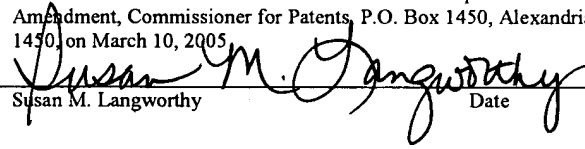
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BEN YORKS
Reg. No. 33,609

840 Newport Center Drive
Suite 400
Newport Beach, CA 92660-6324
(949) 760-0991

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Susan M. Langworthy

Date

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